MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I agree with the Minister. That is already there. I think the best suggestion has come from Shri Barnala, if you can examine his suggestion regarding the entry of the CCI.

National Commission for Safai Karamchari

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*229. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis during 1996-97;

(b) the location of the Headquarters of the Commission;

(c) the number of employees working in the Commission;

(d) whether the Commission has examined the living conditions of the scavangers;

(e) if so, the details of the report submitted in this regard during 1995-96;

(f) whether the Commission has made any proposal for setting up its Regional Offices at Bangalore and other places of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis during 1996-97 is Rs. 70 lakh. However, in R.E. 1996-97 it has been increased to Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

(b) The Commission is located in 'B' Wing, 4th Floor of Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi.

(c) Apart from the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Commission 43 employees are working in the Commission. However, the total sanctioned strength of the Commission is 46, out of which 3 posts (2 of Private Secretary and one of Research Assistant) are lying vacant. In addition, 10 group 'D' staff have been engaged on daily wage basis.

(d) and (e) The Commission have submitted the first Report for the year 1994-95 during November, 1995 which, inter alia, included recommendations pertaining to the term and status of the Commission, financial autonomy, definition of scavenger, survey, stipend, training, project cost of rehabilitation, publicity to the scheme, timely release of funds, adoption of cluster approach, monitoring, facilities for Safai Karamcharis, finance corporation exclusively for Safai Karamcharis, etc.

(f) The Commission has not made any proposal for setting up of Regional office at Bangalore.

(g) Does not arise.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps that are being taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and also for the development of their economic, social and other living conditions? Is there any special programme is being evolved to enable them to cross the poverty line? Will the Government set up regional offices in the South to speed up the activities of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the Government has launched a national scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents. Under this scheme, we have first identified the number of persons who are in this obnoxious occupation of carrying human excreta on head and the number of persons who are scavengers.

12.00 hrs.

We have 7,50,000 scavengers all over India. We have different schemes for the elimination of this profession. We are offering them substitute or alternative employment, and we are sure thhat by 2002 the Government will be in a position to eliminate this bad profession.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mobile Zoos

*221. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered as well as unregistered mobile zoos operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Central Zoo Authority has banned the unregistered mobile zoos in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the assistance, if any given to such registered mobile zoos by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The total number of mobile zoos in the country which have made applications to Central Zoo Authority for recognition is 25. These are 11 in Bihar, 1 in Tamil Nadu, 9 in Uttar Pradesh and 4 in West Bengal. Besides these, 2 zoos from Madhya Pradesh and 1 zoo from Rajasthan which did not make any application to the Central Zoo Authority for recognition have approached Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to allow them to continue their operations.

(b) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides that no zoo can be operated without getting recognition from the Central Zoo Authority. Action is being taken accordingly.